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GROUND LEVEL TREE ASSESSMENT - BATS

SITE

Rhostyllen footpath / cycleway Route
Colliery Road
Wrexham
LL14 4FG

CLIENT

SG Estates
Unit 1
Rhosddu Industrial Estate
Old Rhosrobin
Wrexham
LL11 4YL

JOB No.

1090

DATE

May 2025

GRID REFERENCE

SJ 31685 48331
(approx. centre of site)

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

EDC were commissioned to undertake a ground level tree assessment for bat roost potential, of an area of land situated in Rhostyllen on behalf of SG Estates. The proposed works are for the construction of a footpath/cycleway and bridge across the Glan Yr Afon Brook, within a parcel of mixed woodland located to the south of the ongoing SG Estates housing development site, situated off Wrexham Road. The proposed site works survey area is approximately 1.35 ha, with the South eastern boundary adjoining Hafod Road. The Glan-yr-afon Brook runs central throughout the course of the site. A previous survey preliminary ecological appraisal has been undertaken on site by EDC in 2025 and United Environmental Services Ltd in 2022.

At the proposed works area, for the formation of the bridge, 115 trees have been highlighted for assessment. Specifically for the presence of roosting bat potential.

2.0 SITE and SURVEY AREA

The overall survey area is approximately 5.4 Ha, with the proposed site works boundary being approximately 1.35ha in area. The vast majority of which comprises broadleaved woodland. The development works will be localised in nature. Agricultural arable land is adjacent to the woodland and the majority of the proposed footpath / cycleway will follow the boundary line of the woodland within this arable land. The Glan-yr-afon brook flows through the woodland from west to east. The south eastern section of site is an area of species-poor semi-improved grassland.

At this time, the proposed footpath / cycleway route has not been finalised although an indicative plan has been provided to EDC. The planned works will include the creation of a footpath / cycleway and bridge. One footbridge is to be provided as part of the works.



Fig 1 – **Survey Area**. White area indicates the extent of the site boundary. The main focus of the ground level tree assessment was the red highlighted area, which was surveyed on 13/05/2025.

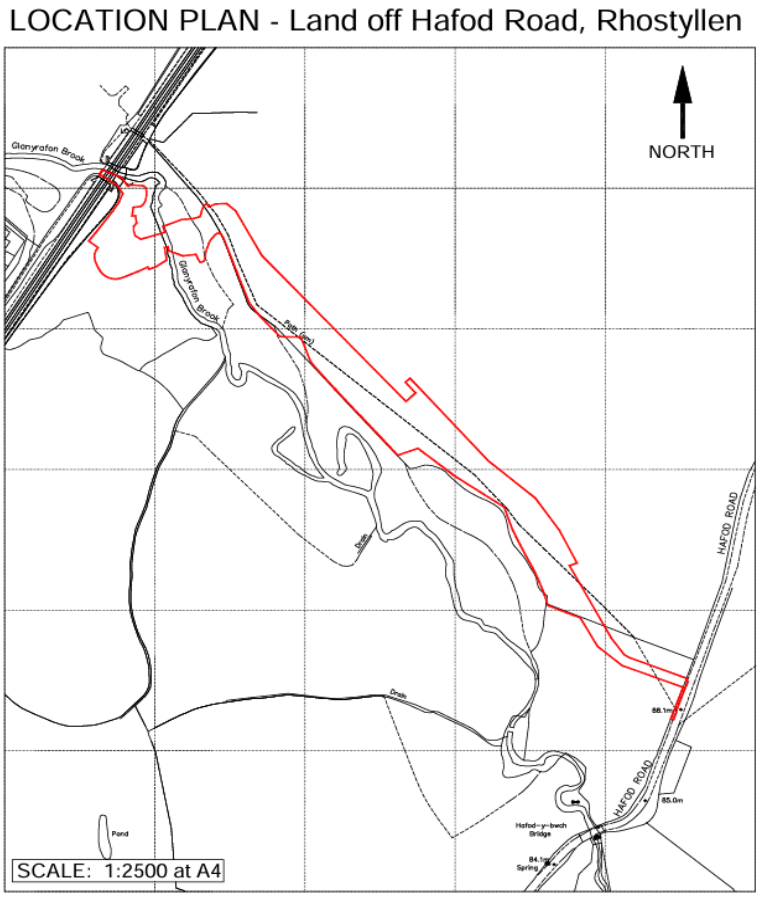


Fig 2 – **Proposed Work Survey Area** . Red line boundary area as this is where the proposed footpath / cycleway and bridge are to be situated.

Survey

The survey was conducted under optimal conditions, during a period of dry warm weather, on the 13th May 2025 by Ecological Consultant Tobias Hodnett.

3.0 METHODS

3.1 DATA SEARCH

A desk top data search for Bat species records within 2 km over the last 20 years was undertaken.

3.2 GROUND LEVEL TREE ASSESSMENT:

A ground level tree assessment was carried out on 115 trees which are earmarked for removal as part of the proposed works. The trees earmarked for removal are shown on the MD landscape drawings listed in the appendix 9.3 (No's 238/T/114 Rev P03 & 238/T/115 Rev P03). The purpose of the survey was to identify any suitability to support roosting bats. Survey methodology was in line with the most up-to-date guidance available at the time of the survey (Collins (ed), 2016); however, methods are considered compliant with the recently published update to the good practice guidelines published by the Bat Conservation Trust (Collins (ed), 2023). Various data were recorded, including;

- Tag Number;
- Species;
- Height (estimate);
- Age (category);
- Condition; and
- Bat Roost Potential.

Comments were also included to add clarification to the assessment.

The suitability of a tree for roosting bats relies on the presence of potential roost features (PRFs); these may include:

- Fissures and cracks, often caused by tree damage;
- Rot holes/cavities;
- Woodpecker holes, knot holes; and
- Lifted bark.

Where potential roost features were visible from the ground, their locations and characteristics were recorded to determine the requirement for further surveys. For trees that possess multiple PRFs, or where PRFs are considered likely to support roosts of a higher conservation significance, up to three additional surveys may be required to confirm presence/ likely absence of a roost including. This further survey effort typically comprises aerial assessments, or activity surveys with night vision aids where climbing is considered impractical, unsafe, or inefficient method of gathering additional data.

The surveyors also assessed the suitability of the habitat for foraging and commuting bats.

The Lead surveyor was experienced in assessing trees from ground level. Trees were not climbed; where necessary, binoculars were used to identify and classify potential roost features (PRFs)

4.0 LIMITATIONS

No limitations were recorded that would be considered to vary the species and habitats as recorded during survey.

5.0 EXISTING DATA

5.1 BAT (Chiroptera):

Bat *Chiroptera* –

There is a single record historic record from circa 1998 for brown long eared and common pipistrelle bat located 1.5km to the east of the survey boundary. During the 2022 survey no presence was identified within the survey boundary and proposed works area.

The following species are recorded at both local and at a county level: -

- Pipistrelle Pipistrellus *pipistrellus/pygmaeus*
- Brown Long-eared *Plecotus auritus*
- Lesser Horseshoe *Rhinolophus hipposideros*

- Greater Horseshoe *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*
- Daubenton's *Myotis daubentonii*
- Whiskered/Brandt's *Myotis mystacinus/brandtii*
- Natterer's *Myotis nattereri*
- Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*
- Serotine *Eptesicus serotinus*

6.0 RESULTS

At the time of survey climatic conditions were dry and clear, with minimal breeze. Average temperature was 16 °C.

6.1 *GROUND LEVEL TREE ASSESSMENT:*

Table 1 displays the summary of all tree species assessed at the time of survey. Of the 115 trees surveyed 21 were identified as fallen, possibly due to previous storm events. A detailed description of potential roost features is shown in table 2.

Following the preliminary ground level assessment of 115 trees, 37 have been highlighted for further investigation. Of which included 27 Ash *(Fraxinus excelsior)*, 5 Sycamore *(Acer pseudoplatanus)*, 3 Hawthorn *(Crataegus monogyna)* and 2 Birch *(Betula pendula)*.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Number Surveyed	Number Highlighted
Oak	*Quercus sp.*	3	0
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	50	27
Beech	*Fagus sylvatica*	5	0
Sycamore	*Acer pseudoplatanus*	17	5
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*	13	3
Birch	*Betula pendula*	3	2
Hazel	*Corylus avellana*	1	0
Alder	*Alnus glutinosa*	1	0
Pine	*Pinus sp.*	1	0

Table 1: Summary of Ground Level Tree Assessment

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 GROUND LEVEL TREE ASSESSMENT:

Of the 115 trees preliminary surveyed 37 have been highlighted for further assessment. It is therefore the surveyors opinion that an aerial level tree assessment should be conducted following this assessment by a licensed ecologist and tree climbers, within the bat activity season (May-September). Bat activity surveys may then be required should aerial assessments be considered insufficient or inappropriate. The advantage of the aerial inspection Is that it might rule out the requirement for any other survey works.

8.0 CONCLUSION

No major impacts on protected species, biodiversity or habitats have been identified at this stage of the assessment process. It is recommended that some elements of further survey are undertaken. Generally, it is therefore the surveyor's opinion that the proposed development proposals are considered likely to have no long-term impact on the favourable conservation status of locally recorded protected species, or their ecological functionality if the works are carried out in accordance with good mitigation and management going forward.

Tobias Hodnett

edc

July 2025

APPENDICES

9.0 Site Photographs

Photo 1 – Eastern Bank of the Glan Yr Afon Brook showing assessment area.



Photo 2 – Western area south of Glan Yr Afon Brook showing some of the assessment area.



9.1 Botanical Species List

Vascular Plants	
Common Name	**Scientific Name**
Birdsfoot trefoil	*Lotus corniculatus*
Blackthorn	*Prunus spinosa*
Bramble	*Rubus fruitcosus agg.*
Bracken	*Pteridium aquilinum*
Broad-leaved dock	*Rumex obtusifolius*
Buttercup species	*Ranunculus spp.*
Butterfly bush	*Buddleia davidii*
Common dandelion	*Taraxacum officinale*
Common nettle	*Urtica dioica*
Cocksfoot	*Dactylis glomerata*
Creeping thistle	*Cirsium arvense*
Elder Flower	*Sambus nigra*
Hazel	*Corylus avellana*
Sycamore	*Acer psuedoplatanus*
Oak	*Quercus sp*
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*
Pine	*Pinus sp*
Rowen	*Sorbus aucuparia*
Alder	*Alnus sp*
European ivy	*Hedera helix*
Poplar	*Populus sp*
Hawthorn	*Crataegus monogyna*
Meadow foxtail	*Alopecurus pratensis*
Plantain species	*Plantago spp.*
Lords & Ladies	*Arum maculatum*
Speedwell	*Veronia sp*
Rosebay willowherb	*Chamaenerion angustifolium*
Sweet vernal grass	*Anthoxanthum odoratum*
Timothy	*Phleum pratense*
White clover	*Trifolium repens*
Willow	*Salix spp*
Holly	*Llex sp*
Wild Garlic	*Allium ursinum*

Bluebell Common	*Hyacinthordes no scripta*
Dogs Mercury	*Mercurialis perennis*
Campion	*Silene sp*
Wild Raspberry	*Rubus moluccanus*
Cleaver	*Galium aparine*
Hawthorn	*Crataegus sp*
Japensese Knotweed	*Reynoutria Japaonica*
Himalyan Balsam	*Impatiens glandulifera*
Sorrel	*Rumex acetosa*
Hogweed	*Heracleum sphondytium*
Yellow Archangel	*Lamium glaeobdolon*

9.3 Proposed Site Works Study Area

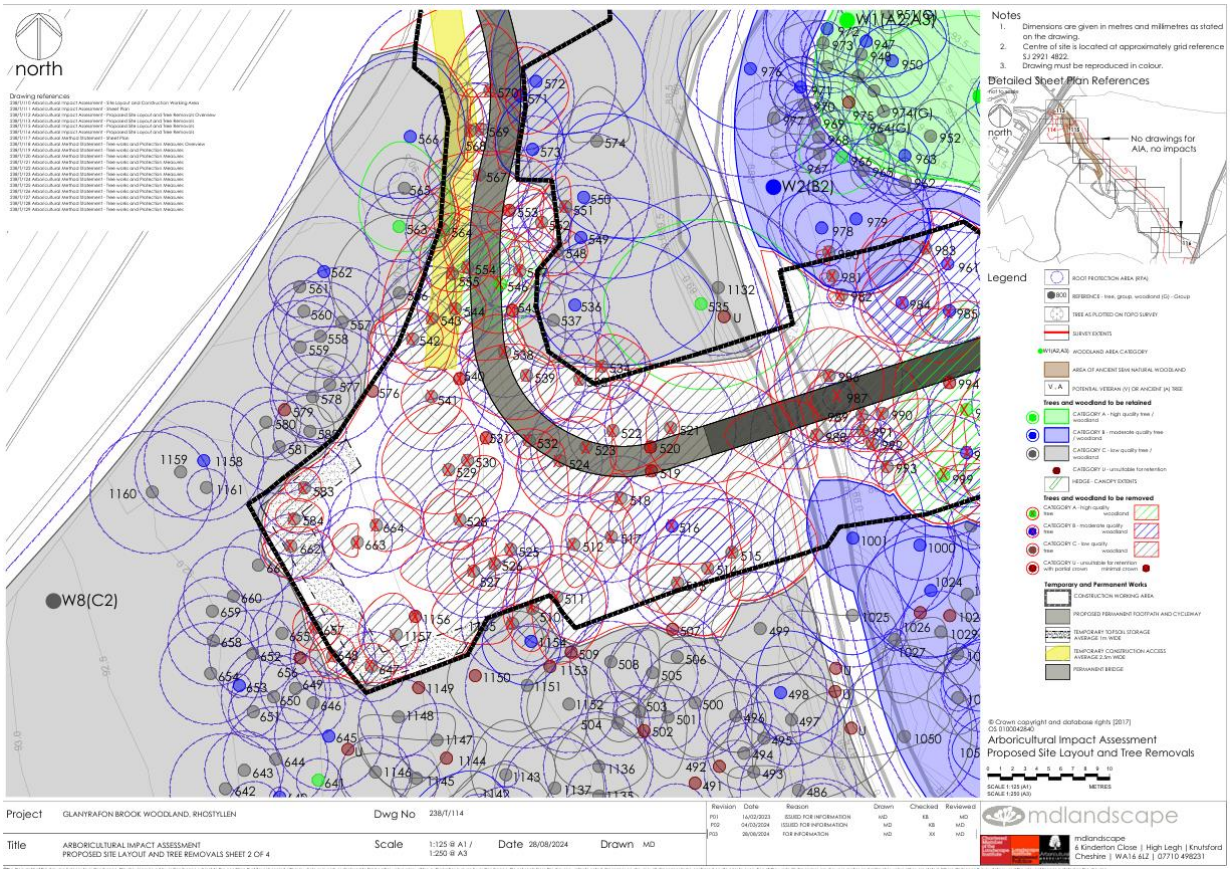


Figure 3: Western area of the proposed works site boundary, showing tree tag numbers of assessed trees.

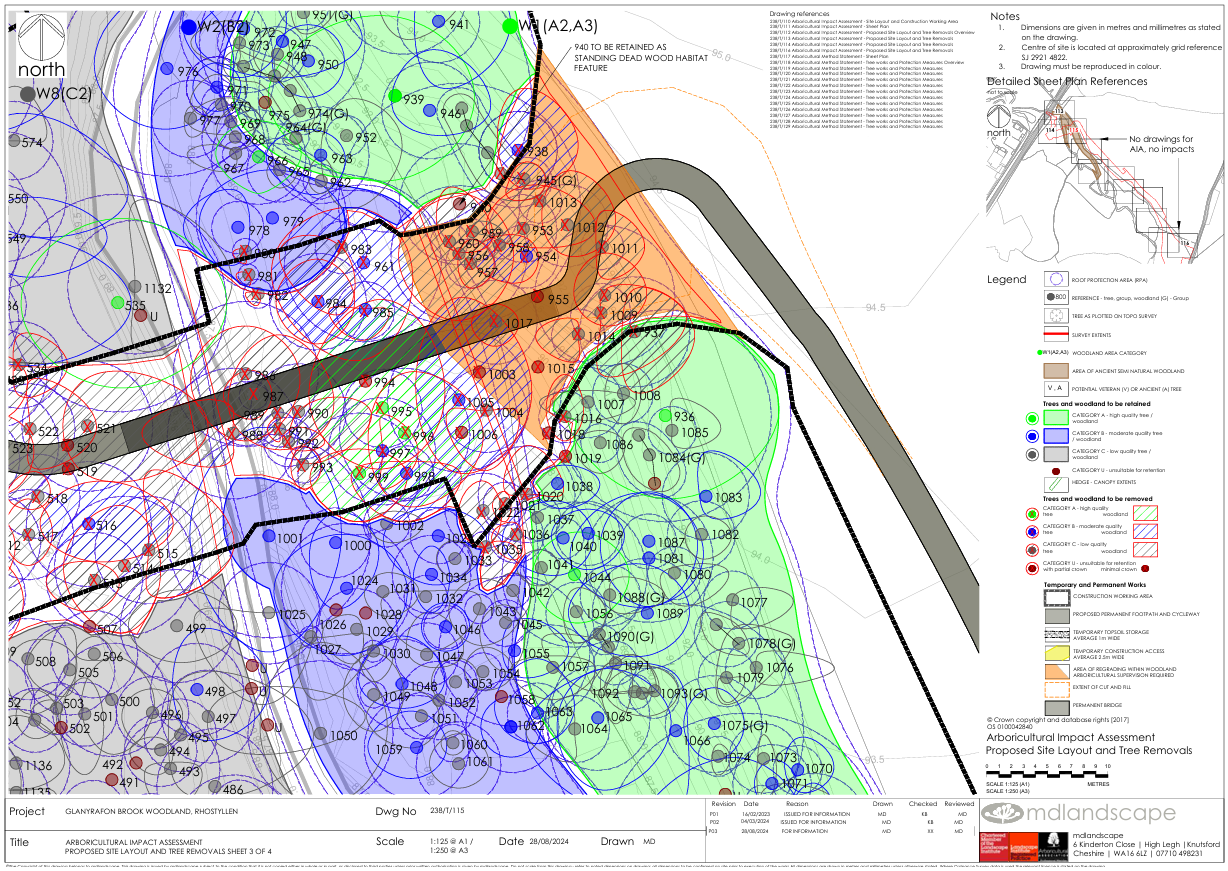


Figure 4: Eastern area of the proposed works site boundary, showing tree tag numbers of assessed trees.

9.4 Detailed Tree Assessment Table (2)

Tag no.	Species	Feature Y/N	Comments	Roost Potential
0571	ASH	N	Loose Ivy to 6m, Not Dense. No visible Voids	Low
0570	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy, Further assessment to determine void presence	Medium
0568	ASH	N	Loose Ivy to 6m, Not Dense, No visible Voids.	Low
0569	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
0567	BIRCH	Y	Dense Ivy, Further assessment to determine void presence.	Medium
0551	ASH	N	Straight Pole, No Visible Voids	Low
0552	ASH	N	Straight Pole, No Visible Voids	Low
0548	ASH	N	Straight Pole, No Visible Voids	Low
0553	HAZEL	N	Immature & small	Low
0554	ASH	Y	Visible Void situated at approx. 5m	Medium
0555	ASH	N	Straight Pole, No Visible Voids.	Low
0564	ALDER	N	Straight Pole, No Visible Voids.	Low
0544	ASH	N	Straight Pole, No Visible Voids.	Low
0543	ASH	Y	Visible Void situated at approx. 5m	Medium
0542	ASH	N	Loose Ivy to 4m, No Visible Voids	Low
0567	ASH	Y	Mainly deceased. Dense Ivy Covered. Further assessment by MEWP recommended	Medium
0541	ASH	N	Straight pole no visible voids	Low

0540	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
0530	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
0531	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
0529	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy to 8m. Further assessment to determine void presence.	Medium
0528	ASH	N	Straight Pole. No visible voids	Low
0527	ASH	N	Straight Pole. No visible voids	Low
0526	ASH	N	Straight Pole. No visible voids	Low
0525	ASH	N	Straight Pole. No visible voids	Low
0511	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy to 10m. Further assessment to determine void presence.	Medium
0510	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy to 10m. Further assessment to determine void presence.	Medium
1155	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy to 8m. Further assessment to determine void presence.	Medium
1157	ASH	N	Straight Pole, No visible Voids	Low
1156	ASH	N	Straight Pole, No visible Voids	Low
0567	ASH	Y	Mainly deceased. Dense Ivy Covered. Further assessment by MEWP recommended	Medium
0648	ASH	Y	Mainly deceased. Dense Ivy Covered. Further assessment by MEWP recommended	Medium

0655	ASH	N	Stright Pole, No Visible Voids	Low
0657	ASH	Y	Visible Feature at 4m. Dense Ivy, Further assessment to determine void presence.	Medium
0583	ASH	Y	Visible Feature at 4m.	Medium
0584	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy to 8m, Further assessment to determine void presence.	Medium
0662	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy to 6m, Further assessment to determine void presence.	Medium
0663	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy to 8m, Further assessment to determine void presence.	Medium
0664	ASH	N	Split V Trunk, No Visible Voids	Low
0547	ASH	N	Straight Pole, No Visible Voids	Low
0546	BEECH	N	Immature & Small	Low
0545	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
0538	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
0539	ASH	N	Split V Trunk, No Visible Voids	Low
0534	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy to 8m, Further assessment to determine void presence.	Medium
0533	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy to 8m, Further assessment to determine void presence.	Medium
0513	ASH	Y	Mainly deceased. Dense Ivy Covered. Further assessment by MEWP recommended	Medium

0514	ASH	Y	Mainly deceased. Dense Ivy Covered. Further assessment by MEWP recommended	Medium
0515	ASH	Y	Mainly deceased. Dense Ivy Covered. Further assessment by MEWP recommended	Medium
0516	ASH	Y	Mainly deceased. Dense Ivy Covered. Further assessment by MEWP recommended	Medium
0518	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy to 8m, Further assessment to determine void presence.	Medium
0521	ASH	Y	Mainly deceased. Dense Ivy Covered. Further assessment by MEWP recommended	Medium
0519	ASH	N	Leaning on 0516	Low
0520	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
0522	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy to 6m, Further assessment to determine void presence.	Medium
0523	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy to 10m, Further assessment to determine void presence.	Medium
0524	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
0532	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
0512	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a

0517	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
1033	ASH	N	Immature, No Visible Voids	Low
1035	ASH	N	Immature, No Visible Voids	Low
1022	ASH	Y	Dense Ivy to 10m, Further Assessment to determine void presence	Medium
1021	ASH	N	Immature, No Visible Voids	Low
1020	BIRCH	Y	Split Trunk, Possible Feature	Medium
1019	HAWTHORN	N	Immature & Small	Low
1018	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
1016	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
1015	HAWTHORN	Y	Dense Ivy, Further Assessment to determine void presence	Medium
1010	HAWTHORN	N	Immature & Small	Low
1009	HAWTHORN	N	Immature & Small	Low
1014	HAWTHORN	N	Immature & Small	Low
0937	SYCAMORE	Y	Dense Ivy, Further Assessment to determine void presence	Medium
0954	HAWTHORN	N	Straight, No Visible Voids	Low
1012	HAWTHORN	Y	Mainly deceased. Dense Ivy Covered. Further assessment to determine void presence	Medium
1011	HAWTHORN	Y	Dense Ivy Covered. Further assessment to determine void presence	Medium
1013	HAWTHORN	N	Immature & Small	Low

0959	SYCAMORE	N	Immature & Small	Low
0957	HAWTHORN	N	Immature & Small	Low
0956	SYCAMORE	N	Straight, No Visible Voids	Low
0960	SYCAMORE	N	Immature & Small	Low
0940	n/a	N	Felled Deadwood Oak	n/a
0946	HAWTHORN	N	Straight, No Visible Voids	Low
0945	SYCAMORE	N	Immature & Small	Low
0961	SYCAMORE	Y	Mature. 1 noted feature at 8m	Medium
0984	BEECH	N	Straight, No Visible Voids	Low
0983	BEECH	N	Immature & Small	Low
0985	OAK	N	Immature & Small	Low
0954	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
0953	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
0958	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
1017	SYCAMORE	Y	Dense Ivy, Further Assessment to determine void presence	Medium
1018	HAWTHORN	N	Immature & Small	Low
1003	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
0955	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
1004	SYCAMORE	N	Straight, No Visible Voids	Low
1005	SYCAMORE	N	Mature, Straight, No Visible Voids	Low
1006	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
0955	BEECH	N	Straight, No Visible Voids	Low
0996	BEECH	N	Straight, No Visible Voids	Low

0997	PINE	N	Straight, No Visible Voids	Low
0998	BEECH	N	Straight, No Visible Voids	Low
0999	BIRCH	N	Straight, No Visible Voids. Lifted Base/Leaning	Low
0990	OAK	N	Mature, No Visible Voids	Low
0991	SYCAMORE	N	Straight, with visible storm damage to main trunk	Low
0992	SYCAMORE	Y	Straight, Mature, Visible feature at 8m	Medium
0993	HAWTHORN	N	Small & Immature	Low
0989	SYCAMORE	N	Straight, No Visible Voids	Low
0988	SYCAMORE	N	Straight, No Visible Voids	Low
0987	SYCAMORE	Y	Mainly deceased. Dense Ivy Covered. Further assessment to determine void presence	Medium
0986	n/a	N	No Tree in-situ. Possible fell from storm event	n/a
0982	SYCAMORE	N	Small & Immature	Low
0981	SYCAMORE	N	Small & Immature	Low
0980	SYCAMORE	N	Small & Immature	Low